

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): An antisense oligonucleotide of the polynucleotide of Claim 1.

Claims 5-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A method for delaying the flowering time of plants, comprising the step of introducing a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 ~~the polynucleotide of Claim 1~~ into the plants, wherein the polynucleotide is operably linked to an expression control sequence.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The method of Claim 9, wherein the plants are is monocotyledon or dicotyledon.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): A method for promoting the flowering time of plants, which comprising the steps of introducing an antisense molecule into the plants.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 11, wherein the antisense molecule is selected from the group consisting of triplex agent, ribozyme, RNAi, and antisense nucleic acid.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The method of Claim 11, wherein the plants is monocotyledon or dicotyledon.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): A method for identifying a compound controlling the flowering time of plants, comprising the steps of:

culturing a recombinant cell comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 1 and a candidate substance; and

measuring the effect of the candidate substance on the expression of the polynucleotide.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): A method for screening a gene controlling the flowering time of plants, which comprises using the polynucleotide of Claim 1 as a primer or probe.

Claim 16 (New): A method for preparing plants having delayed flowering time, comprising the steps of introducing a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 into the plants and overexpressing the polynucleotide, wherein the polynucleotide is operably linked to an expression control sequence.

Claim 17 (New): A plant having delayed flowering time, wherein the plant is prepared by the method of claim 16.

Claim 18 (New): A plant tissue or seed derived from the plant of claim 17, wherein the seed comprises a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, wherein the polynucleotide was introduced into the plant.